



# Impact Report 2019



## Our Mission

To build hope and healthy families through a helping hand program of structured housing. Allowing families with children to remain together in a safe and decent living environment so that they may grow strong, become self-reliant, transform their lives, and crush the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

# From the Director's Desk

As Community of Hope moves from 2019 to 2020, it genuinely feels like we are entering not just a new year but a new decade and era for our organization. Historically, Community of Hope has been a small grass roots charitable organization providing housing to a few homeless families and has grown to impact the lives of hundreds of Brevard families every year through our Safe Overnight Stay program, transitional housing, affordable permanent housing, and a wide variety of additional services to support the holistic wellbeing, needs, and goals of each family. Together, as a community and an organization, we surround those in need with love and support to move forward.



Our primary mission has always been, and will continue to be, providing housing to families with children who would otherwise be homeless. However, this year we started planting seeds that have allowed us to expand the number of families we are able to help and the ways in which we do so. This includes case management, which identifies family needs and connects them with the internal and community supports to meet those needs. We are also strengthening our mentorship program, Hope Connections. It is designed with a curriculum to guide the family and their “Family Allies” (volunteer mentors) as they walk together on a journey of self-discovery and growth. Camp Hope is being offered to our families and others who have been affected by housing instability. It provides a safe and enriching experience to children in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> in need of such a place, subsidizing the cost of attendance through continued community support to remove the cost barrier to families needing reliable and educational child care when school is not in session. This allows for the parents to maintain consistent employment and the kids to experience a world wider than their own. Finally, we continued and expanded the S.O.S. (Safe Overnight Stay) shelter program which is operated in conjunction with the Brevard Homeless Coalition. This program now has three locations when only two years ago it began with just one. Our case manager, by being an in-house member of Community of Hope’s staff, has been able to assist numerous families transition from a place of desperate uncertainty to a clear plan of approach to reach their goals of a stable and sustainable future.

We also received a grant from HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) which allows us to assist homeless families in attaining housing in the private rental market. Likewise, we are accessing state funding through the ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) fund that allows us to support families moving out of homelessness and into private rental housing. These two funding sources will allow us to help twenty or more additional families per year.

Finally, we have also become a recognized Community Housing Development Organization (AKA “CHDO”). This comes with expanded access to funds for development and construction of new housing and recognition as a go-to developer of such projects. We are using this designation to help fund and guide our development of a 10 unit expansion in Titusville- the most exciting news being our plan to break ground on construction during the first half of this year.

Obviously, 2019 was a growth year, putting in place the pieces that will serve as a launching pad to take Community of Hope to a more impactful era. While many of these pieces come with some funding, in order to efficiently make the most of these opportunities we will be seeking more community assistance through donation drives, public events, and fundraisers. As we rise to meet the growing need for affordable family housing, we will require additional staff alongside active and engaged volunteers for facility upkeep/improvement, mentoring our families, providing other families services, and supporting our office needs. It truly is a community effort. Let’s make 2020 our best year yet.

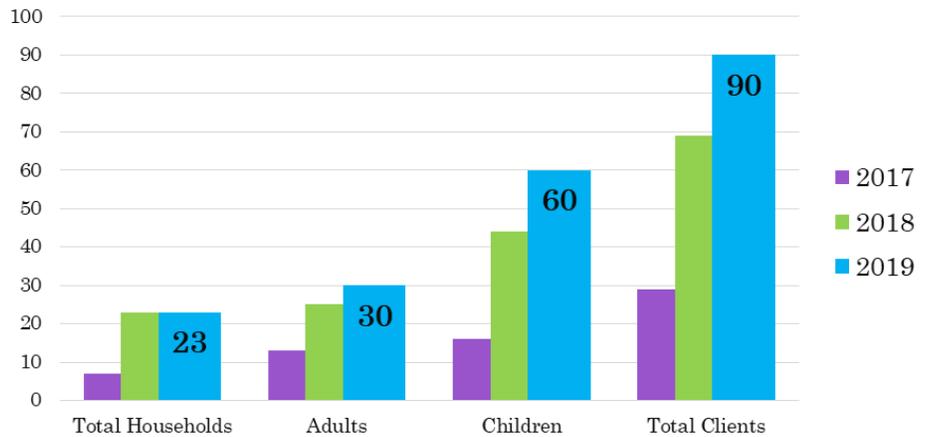
## Safe Overnight Stay (SOS)

The SOS Program is designed to be an immediate intervention to divert families who are, or are at risk of, homelessness for the first time— often due to the loss of income or leaving domestic violence.

Intensive case management along with partnerships in the community work to find a housing solution before they become trapped in a cycle of evictions while providing stability and reduction of trauma to the family in the interim.

# Our Housing Programs

Safe Overnight Stay (SOS) Program  
2017-2019



*7 years old*

*The average age of a child entering SOS*



## Transitional Housing Program (THP)

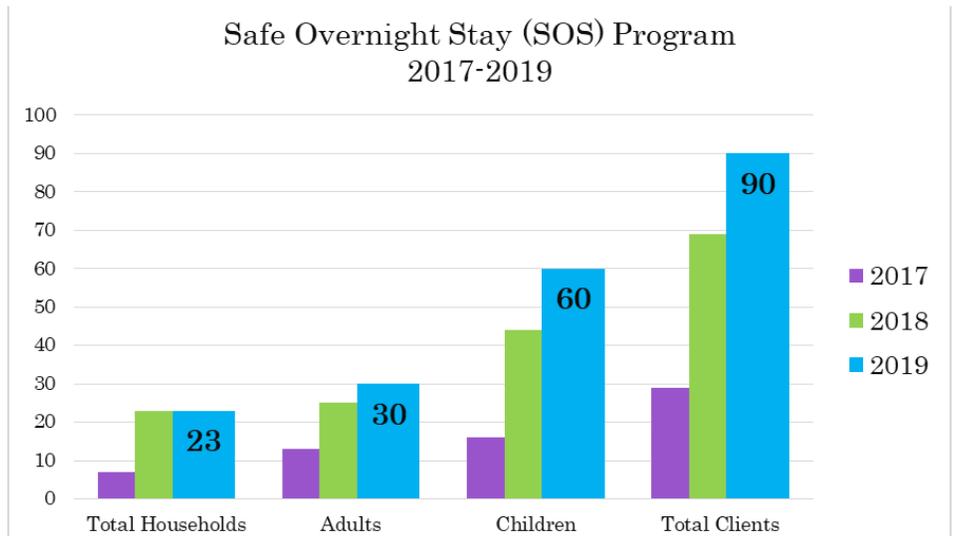
A two-year program that focuses on paving a path toward long-term housing goals, the THP provides an income based rental unit along with access to resources such as Financial Peace University and Hope Connections (our mentor/partner initiative) to provide residents with the tools to forge their own future.

## Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

A longer term affordable housing program, our PSH provides rental units to families on a fixed income, or who are more financially stable and working on their next steps toward home ownership (saving up for a deposit, doing sweat equity hours towards a Habitat house, etc).

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# Building a Community

Last year, we partnered with the Florida Department of Children and Families and received the training necessary to help anyone in need of assistance in filling out their paperwork for access to SNAP or Medicaid benefits.



Since our approval last fall, we've helped more than 15 families connect with community services.

## Family Reunification Program

Starting in 2018, we began the Family Reunification Program alongside Brevard Family Partnership to fill the need for appropriate, affordable housing in situations where it is the only barrier to reuniting children separated by court-order from an unsafe living situation. Through this program, we have been able to assist in bringing back together 3 families this year (more than last year), and look forward to even more in 2020- another program that will benefit from the acquisition of more housing units.



Back by popular demand, **Camp Hope** has been updated to include a variety of hands-on educational and experiential learning opportunities wrapped in the traditions and fun of camp! For many families, having access to affordable child care during school breaks allows them to maintain their employment. It also provides the two meals per child that would usually be served by the school. In December of 2019, we had our first session of the ten week 2019/2020 camp season. It is available to all campers who are in grades K-6th and deemed 'in transition' by the Brevard County School system during the current school year. Thanks to you, we're able to offer it without cost to the campers through a scholarship program for qualifying families!

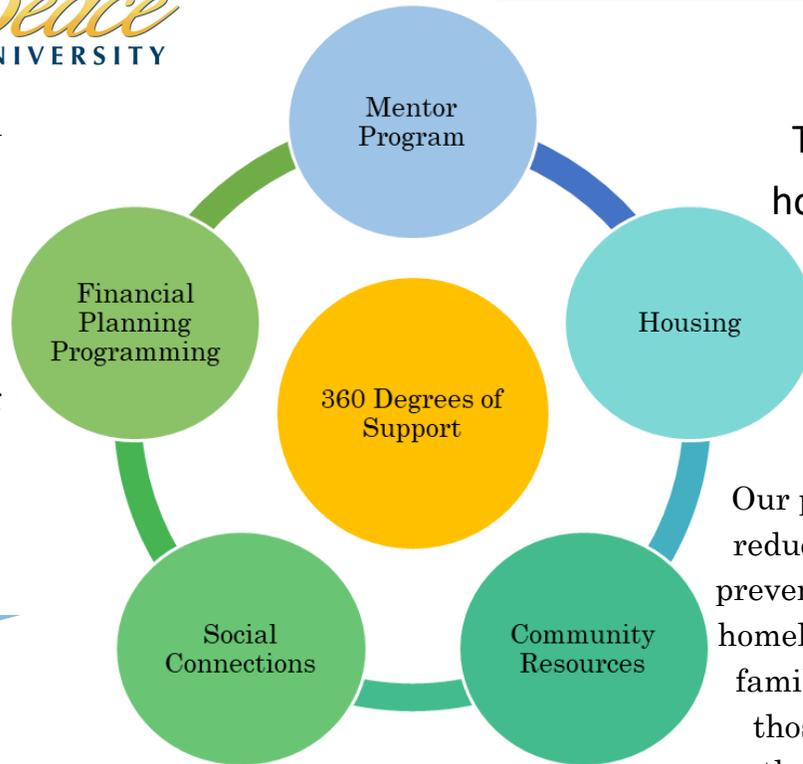
Check out our website for more information: [CampHopeBrevard.com](http://CampHopeBrevard.com)

# Hope Connections

Our “walk-with” mentorship initiative matches families with community volunteers to provide both groups an opportunity to grow in their identity, goals, and vision for the future through a guided program grounded in mutual respect and support.



Offered twice a year in partnership with Habitat for Humanity-Brevard, this course covers a wide variety of practical budgeting and financial planning subjects that the residents will use as they move forward.



**4,460**

Total number of hours volunteered by community members!

Our primary goal is to reduce and ultimately prevent the trauma that homelessness inflicts on families— particularly those with children through providing affordable housing.

We own, lease, or are in the process of building over

**40 properties**- including a ten unit community in Titusville which we will be breaking ground on in 2020.

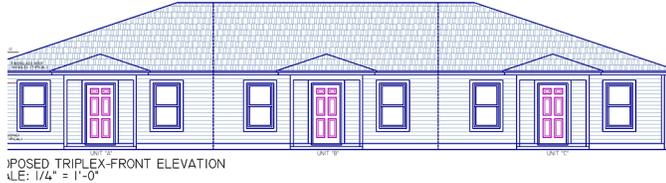


The love and support from Community of Hope has given me the stability I needed to be a mom to my kids again.

We host several events for our families within the community during the year. **Personal Connections** are vitally important for healthy relationships to develop, and to provide support for each family as they create the lives that they envision.



# Looking Ahead



## A Year of Growth and Development

Hope Hammock, our ten unit complex housed in Titusville and in development, is on track for a groundbreaking during the first half of the year. We're so excited to grow and serve more families to include the northern part of the county.

This is just one piece of our plans to grow this year both in our ability to house more families and provide them the support we all need to thrive. The second part of that process is expand our staffing, allowing us to provide these services to the individuals and families, meeting them wherever they are in their journey.

Finally, we look forward to strengthening our community connections, continually improving our ability to help our families transition to long-term self-sufficiency and confidence through partnerships with local housing organizations and resources.

We're Growing!

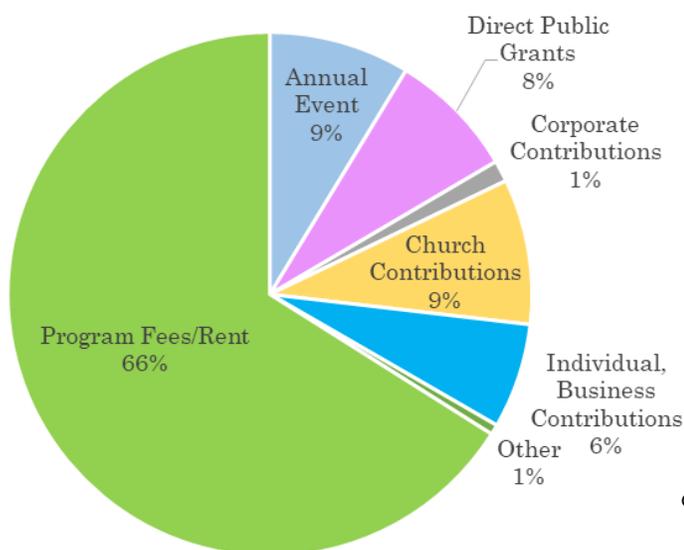


It took one person to stand beside me to guide me along to help me become the person I forgot how to be.

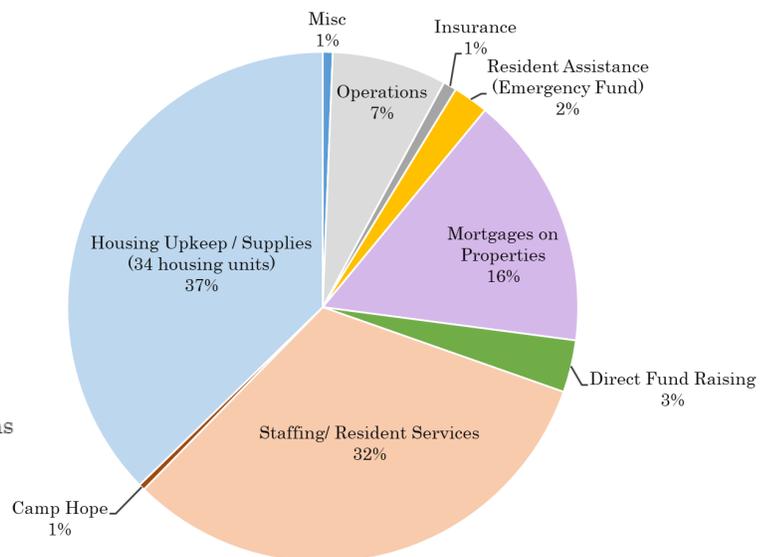
- O, the mother of a 6 year old girl

# Responsible Financial Stewardship

Income 2019



Expenses 2019



# Organizational Leadership

## Board of Directors

### *Executive Director*

P. Drew Warren

### *Board of Directors*

Stephanie Hopper  
*President*

Bartow Willingham  
*1st Vice-President*

Tracy Masters  
*Secretary*

Becky McCowen  
*Treasurer*

### *Directors*

Bryan Becker  
Susan Blair  
Kevin Brown  
Alyssa Buchan  
Judy Dolan-Wood  
Megan Howard  
Ray Hirst  
Linda Parrish  
Ellen Rogers



## Trustee Churches

Ascension Catholic  
Ascension Lutheran  
CenterPointe Church  
Christian Fellowship  
Covenant Presbyterian  
Eastminster Presbyterian  
First United Methodist of  
Melbourne  
Highland Avenue Fellowship  
Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Mosaic Palm Bay  
Trinity Wellsprings Church

## Connect With Us!

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